



# Families of Couillardville

**Togetherness Helpfulness Friendliness**  
*It is about the people!*

Seventh Edition—Fall 2014

Price \$1.00

## Machine Shed Reunion #12



**First row L to R** - Dan Roznowski, Jim Jacquart, Jacqueline Behling, Janice Detaeje Janssen, Charlotte Ihde, Leona "Pat" Konkel Rockteschel, Lorraine Konkel, Dave Janssen, Nathan Burkel, Marilyn Matravers Krueger, Ruth Thome, Helen Jacquart Roznowski, Darlene, Keith Evrard. **Second row L to R** - Bob Rockteschel, Jerry Peters Sr., Merlin Behling, Claire Peters, Linda Carey, David Matravers, John Matravers, Keith Jenquin, Megan DeBruin, MaryAnn Konkel Jenquin, Nancy Carey Campbell, Jen Burkel, Betty Couillard, Doug Couillard, Jeff Burkel, Kyle Hynek, Ron Carey, Kaen Baxter, Alicia Hynek, Andrea Schmidt, Kayla Schmidt, Kevin Schmidt, Lisa Janssen, Betsy Janssen, Lynnee Schmidt, Jodi Janssen Jacobson, Parin Schmidt, **Back row, L to R** - Jay Janssen, Joe Konkel, Darlene Konkel, Phil Schmidt, Tim Johnson, Paula Johnson, Mike Bittner, Cindy Bittner, Jim Campbell, Barb Couillard, Amanda Bornfleth, Lyle Nichols, Tom Kussow, Joel Janssen, Joe Valley, Leon Janssen



*Merry  
 Christmas  
 &  
 Happy  
 New Year*

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### MSR12 Blessed with Many "First-Timers"

**Couillardville**—September 13, 2014

It was another beautiful fall afternoon when the families of Couillardville gathered to share memories of their growing up years and the people who made those years so special. Thanks to many new faces at this year's reunion the attendance was the highest in many years. Among the other first timers at MSR 12 were Mike and Cindy Bittner, neighbors to and caretakers of Lavon Johnston's land formerly the land of Lavon and Lee's Johnston grandparents. Tim and Paula Johnson, neighbors of the Thomes were guests of Ruth Thome and first time attendees. Sue Ann Glynn and her husband Gary Staponkus joined Sue Ann's brother Lloyd and parents Don and Betty Glynn. So many were pleased to see Sue Ann at her first Machine Shed Reunion. Merlin Behling joined old friends at his first MSR with his wife Jacqueline.

Amanda Bornfleth is the next door neighbor of Lyle and Diane Nichols, a horse owner and frequent assistant to Lyle in horse pulling activities. Amanda also a first timer, enjoyed learning about the Couillardville story. Megan DeBruin joined Grandparents Keith and MaryAnn Konkel Jenquin. Thanks to the persistence of Phyllis Hintz the MSR#12 group had the pleasure to welcome Ron Pitroski and his Dad, long time neighbors of the Hintz's. Ron also now owns the old Mittag farm.

The family of Lucy and Phil Schmidt attended in near full force and were treated to a special tribute to Mother and Grandmother.

In addition to the Tribute to Lucy Ann, attendees were treated to video stories of The Cheese Factory and The Couillardville 4-H.

# MSR 12



**Charlotte Ihde Leads Singing**

MSR#12 Participants were again treated to the song leading of Charlotte Ihde with her autoharp and an encore performance of her amazing yodeling!



**John Matravers, Jim Campbell and David Matravers enjoy a little refreshment.**



**Dan Roznowski shares a funny memory with Phil Schmidt and his daughter Lynnee and son Parin.**

The family of Lucy Thome Schmidt was present in near full force to share in the honoring of Lucy's memory and her contributions to life in Couillardville from student to teacher to historian in her retirement years spent on the home farm in Couillardville. Phil and Lucy's daughter Lynnee and husband Joe Valley and her son Kaen attended their first MSR along with Phil and Lucy's son, Parin and his wife Andrea and children Kayla and Kevin. The children and grandchildren were treated to a warm tribute to Mother and Grandmother Lucy Thome Schmidt.



**Friends Janice Detaeje Janssen and Marilyn Matravers Krueger get a few minutes to catch up.**



**Centenarian Brings a Smile to the Faces of All!!**

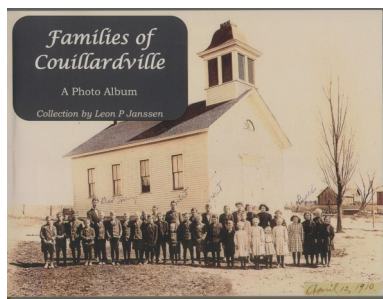
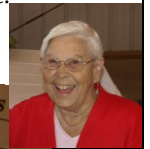
Lorraine Konkel celebrated her 100th Birthday early in 2014. She brightens all faces when she arrives with her infectious smile. It is a gift for all MSR attendees to spend time with this amazing woman.



**Tom Kussow and Jim Jacquart share some humorous memories.**



**Ruth Thome hosts neighbors Tim and Paula Johnson**



Available at Matravers Hardware Oconto  
**A perfect gift**

**Stories of Life's Winding Pathways** by Helen A. Jelinske available for \$12 plus \$3 S&H

**Other Couillardville Books**

Available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)  
Search on "Couillardville"

**Printed books available for \$13.95**

- Joseph and Julia Jacquart Family
- 1928 by Mary Ann Couillard
- 100 Tough (price \$15.95)
- The Norbert and Grace Carey Family
- Sam and Matilda Couillard Family

**Now available as e-books \$3.99**

- Joseph and Julia Jacquart Family
- 1928 by Mary Ann Couillard
- 100 Tough
- The Norbert and Grace Carey Family
- Sam and Matilda Couillard Family

**Available - You Tube FREE**

Anthony O. Carey  
Yankee Soldier (Civil War story of John Matravers)

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*From the editing bin... stories that didn't make it into the MSM book!*

## HALLOWEEN IN COUILLARDVILLE

By: Gene Medford

Besides the major religious and national holidays, the celebration that Couillardville youngsters most looked forward to was Halloween.

Younger kids had fun helping their parents carve Jack-o'-lanterns with hideous faces and making paper cut-outs of frightful black cats and spooky ghosts to decorate their homes and schoolhouse. Later on, when the "trick-or-treating" ritual became commonplace, a favorite activity was creating scary costumes to help extort a generous payoff of goodies from neighbors.

For the older kids, then as now, the emphasis was upon the "trick" part of the equation. Though some wore masquerade masks, that was mostly to conceal their identities from the victims of their mischief.

While Halloween pranks in Couillardville were "spirited," they were not malicious, though a few may have bordered on misdemeanors.

Joe Detaeje Jr. was known by everyone as a prankster during his youth. So it's no surprise he had some of the best Halloween stories of all: "We'd sneak into the farmers' yard and change their light bulbs, reverse the wires on their tractors so they wouldn't start, put somebody's water tank up on the roof, and odds and ends like that."

Things took a more serious turn one Halloween night when the Janssen boys—Gail, and Leon and a couple neighbor boys—played a few pranks on Willy Albert. As Gail shimmied up the yard light pole to unscrew the bulb, the light suddenly came on and Gail came down with the speed of a trained lumber jack. After the boys chained a couple gates closed that were chained open. As the boys walked past Alberts' down County J toward Crawfords they spooked Willy's cattle in the adjoining pasture, causing Willy to appear with a .22 caliber rifle and took a shot in their general direction. While in the ditch the boys heard what sounded like a bullet hitting a wire, perhaps the telephone wire or perhaps the fence wire. Years later, a physician discovered a small projectile lodged in Gail's rib cage during a physical exam. Gail always wondered how he got it.

continued



Helen Jacquart Roznowski, recalled that the older boys especially liked to pull pranks on her father, Joseph.

"They would try to take the hay wagon and put it down by the creek," she laughed. "They also would take the silo ladder down or try to put something on top of the silo. One time, they put my wagon up there. Dad would go out on the front porch and shoot his gun in the air. That scared them to death at first, but after a couple of years, they knew it was coming."

Helen Janssen Jelinske recalled a favorite Halloween prank when she was growing up was tipping over outhouse. In one instance, the farmer was still inside. "He didn't think their joke was very amusing," she noted.

Tipping carefully constructed piles of baled hay was also popular. One year, a neighbor of the Janssen's came banging on their door the morning after Halloween and said that Gail and some of his buddies had tipped over his big stack. Since Gail had already left to pick corn in the northern part of the county, Ernie got together a small



crew that spent the morning restacking the tumbled bales.

continued

### Parties for Pranksters

Halloween in Couillardville wasn't all high jinks and heartburn. For many of the kids and their parents, the best part was the parties where they would play games, bob for apples, and enjoy special treats.

Jim Jacquart had wonderful memories of being with his Aunt Mary Detaeje on Halloween:

She thought instead of having these kids doing damage all over, she would have us to her house for an evening of festivities. So she would invite us over and we would hand shell popcorn. She would have some real nice treats for us, such as pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and hot chocolate.

Not everyone got to participate in Halloween revelries. "My parents wouldn't leave me go out on a Halloween," said Grace Carey Lutz. "They would say, 'No, you're not going out to play tricks on the neighbors.' They knew kids all went out stealing apples, putting machinery on top of a shed, or something like that." Her daughter, Nancy Carey Campbell, added, "My dad used to tell a story about how they would toilet-paper the bridge by the Detaeje's farm. They would string toilet paper across the bridge, then hide and wait for the first car to drive through it."

As the years rolled by and the kids grew up and moved away, "trick-or-treating" on Halloween slowly declined in the Couillardville area. The pranks also abated as the former perpetrators grew up to become the farmers protecting their property from the late-night raids. Not as much fun, of course, but preferable to fishing their wagons out of a brook the next morning.



# We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe!!



**Barb Couillard brought her special smile to the Machine Shed Reunion on September 13, 2014 despite not feeling quite up to par that day.** Just days later, God had a need to strengthen his heavenly team. His list of criteria for membership on the team was: someone who has a beautiful smile, is always willing to tackle the tasks at hand, and always sees the bright side of the situation; someone who creates an air of love and happiness wherever she goes, and shows never-ending care and compassion for all those who surround her, always putting their feelings and needs ahead of her own. When God asked his team whom he should select, it was unanimous - call Barb!! And so He did. Barb was born June 18, 1945 in Neenah and married Ken Couillard on June 12, 1999. Barb was a loyal companion to Ken in his trips back to Couillardville each year and an eager helper to make the reunions special for everyone. Barb will be missed and will be remembered especially each time we meet to remember the families of Couillardville. We then celebrate because we believe.

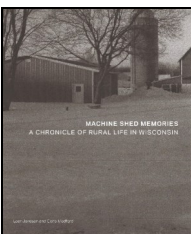


*Dave and Ellen Beyer are remembered by Ron Carey as "both very kind and talented people...they were fine neighbors and friends."*

**Ellen Mae Beyer, 76, Oconto, entered into eternal life in her home after losing her battle with cancer on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.** She was born December 23, 1927 in Menominee, MI to the late Fredrick and Minerva (Runnoe) Wagner. Ellen has been an active member of St. Patrick's Church in Stiles. She has served on the church council, finance committee, building and grounds committee, managed the rummage hall, organized funeral dinners, ran the church picnic for many years and was a member of the Christian Women's Club. Ellen also was a Master Gardener and member of a Homemakers Club. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, David, 3 children, Jeffery (Jody) Beyer, Two Rivers; Darrell (Julie) Beyer, Kingman, AZ; Karla (Dale) Arp, Seattle, WA; 1 son-in-law John Pigeon; 7 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; brother, Norman Wagner, and sister Delores Wagner.

**David Antone Beyer, 83, Oconto, entered into eternal life in his home after losing his battle with cancer on Friday, October 23, 2014.** He was born February 5, 1931 in Menominee, MI to the late Antone and Martha (Spitzer) Beyer. Dave graduated from Stephenson High School in 1949. After graduation, he was a truck driver, roofer and factory worker in Milwaukee. He and his family moved to the Oconto area where he was a farmer and also worked at Packerland Packing. He finished his career as Head of Maintenance at Frigo Cheese. Dave has been an active member of St. Patrick's Church, a Master Gardener and a skilled wood worker.

*Note from Ron Carey: At the funeral the priest said it was the first time he ever had a funeral for a husband and wife the same day. They took their lives together at home and in the church and joined their ashes in the same cemetery plot as a sign of their eternal commitment to one another.*



Read this Chronicle of Rural Life in Wisconsin

[www.machineShedMemories.com](http://www.machineShedMemories.com)